

REMARKS

Subsequent to entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-15 are presently pending in this application. Claims 4-15 are newly added via this Amendment.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lin, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,741), and claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Harter, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,975). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is amended to correspond, by way of example only, to the structures of Figs. 1 and 2. Support for this amendment can be found in the disclosures in the as filed specification (page 13, lines 14-17; page 14, lines 17-22), Fig. 1, the disclosures in the as filed specification (page 15, line 7 through page 16, line 2; page 16, line 15 through page 17, line 6), and Fig. 2, by way of example.

In claim 1, one reflector is concave-configured. On the other hand, in Lin, the reflector 126 is flat-configured. Thus, the structure of claim 1 is fully distinguished from the disclosure of Lin, such that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 is amended to correspond, by way of example only, to the Fig. 1 structure. Support for this amendment can be found in disclosures in the as filed specification (page 15, line 7 through page 16, line 2; page 16, line 15 through page 17, line 6) and Fig. 2, by way of example. Lin shows a flat end of the wave guide, which is different from Applicant's convex-configured end of wave guide, thereby overcoming the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claim 3 is amended to correspond, by way of example only, to the Fig. 2 structure. Support for this amendment can be found in the disclosures in the as filed specification (page 15, line 7 through page 16, line 2; page 16, line 15 through page 17, line 6) and Fig. 2, by way of example. Making a closed space between one end of the wave guide and the concave-configured

reflector is neither taught nor suggested by Lin, resulting in a remarkable difference between the structure of claim 3 and Lin, thereby overcoming the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

New claims 4-15 are introduced to obtain more varied protection for the present invention.

Claim 4 corresponds, by way of example only, to the Fig. 4 structure, whose explanation is found in the as filed specification (page 13, lines 17-22). Claim 4 is characterized in that the cross-sectional area of one end of the wave guide is increased to expand toward one of the reflectors. Such a feature is neither taught nor suggested by Lin and Harter, taken alone or in combination. Thus, the present invention as defined by claim 4 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 5 is added to specify the general concept illustrated, by way of example only, in Figs. 5-7. Claims 6-8 are directed, by way of example only, to the structures shown in Figs. 5-7, respectively. The descriptions related to Figs. 5-7 are found in the as filed specification (page 13, line 24 through page 14, line 17). In the cited art, the saturable absorber is larger than the diameter of the amplifying fiber, which is remarkably different from the structures shown in Figs. 5-7. Thus, the present invention as defined by claims 5-8 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 9-15 contain subject matter similar to original claim 3, except that claim 9 depends from claim 1; claim 10 depends from claim 2; claim 11 depends from claim 4; claim 12 depends from claim 5; claim 13 depends from claim 6; claim 14 depends from claim 7; and claim 15 depends from claim 8, whereas original claim 3 depended from claim 2. As long as claims 1-8 are allowable, despite the disclosure of Harter, claims 9-15 are likewise allowable.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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Respectfully submitted,



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